

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH of the Middleton Cheney Rural District for the year 1918.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you my Report on the health and other matters connected with the Middleton Cheney Rural District for the year 1918. As you are aware I resumed my duties as your Medical Officer of Health in January last year, after being absent on Service since September, 1914. I note that in Dr. John's Report for 1914 he states "The general sanitary condition is satisfactory and the district is in good order." I am pleased to note this remark when I temporarily relinquished my appointment owing to the War. I am afraid this remark does not apply now.

Deaths. The total number of deaths registered in the District during the year was thirty-seven, and four deaths were transferred from outside the district.

Infantile Deaths. There was one death at the age of twelve days from congenital debility. Four of the deaths were due to diphtheria and two from influenza with pneumonia.

Births. There were thirty-six births registered in the District, twenty-one girls and fifteen boys, one of these was illegitimate.

House Accommodation. No new houses have been erected during the past year. Considering the present population the supply of houses appears relatively sufficient, but the condition of a considerable quantity of cottage property is very bad. This subject must receive the full and careful consideration of the Council.

The Water Supply. This has been satisfactory and I cannot trace any epidemic or infectious disease to impure water.

Milk Supply. The Dairies and Cowsheds have been inspected. With a return to pre-war conditions and an increase in labour I hope to see more attention by some occupiers to general cleanliness and better drainage to the above.

Infectious Disease Notification Act. Fifteen cases of diphtheria were notified: eight at Lower Boddington and seven at Upper Boddington. Anti-diphtheritic serum was used vigorously amongst patients and contacts which undoubtedly did much to abate the epidemic and reduce fatalities. Four cases of measles were notified and two cases of tuberculosis. These were all the notifiable diseases. The severe epidemic of influenza which swept over England in the latter part of the year does not appear to have run a virulent course in this district. Although the disease was prevalent in all villages and necessitated the schools in some villages being closed, only two deaths occurred, both these were in Middleton Cheney, at the ages of 20 years and two years.

Sewage and Sewerage. The County Medical Officer of Health drew my attention to Dr. John's Report of last year concerning the pollution of the river Cherwell and the sewerage system existing at Chacombe. I personally brought this subject before the Council in the early part of last year. Although steps have been taken to remedy these conditions I regret that the work has not been carried out, and I cannot help but consider that the Council should have expedited this work. It should be taken in hand at once.

Schools. These are in a good sanitary condition. The School at Upper Boddington was closed in August and a part of September owing to the epidemic of diphtheria, and the Middleton Cheney and Chipping Warden Schools in November on account of influenza.

Factory and Workshops Act, Offensive Trades. There are no factories or offensive trades in the District. The bakehouses, slaughter houses, dairies, milkshops and cowsheds have been inspected and generally speaking found satisfactory.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

J. I. JOHNSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

